



ARARAT HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles, Inc.®

Fall 2012

MEET CORPORAL EDWARD SIMON KALUNIAN WWII WAR HERO and SILVER STAR RECIPIENT

By Debbie Avedian

On November 14, 2011, Edward Kalunian made the Assisted Living Facility of the Ararat Home his new residence. He is a man of valor, integrity, and is well respected by his family, friends and staff at Ararat Home. In addition, Edward is revered by the United States Military for his heroic acts during WWII.

Karikin Kalunian and Siranoush Ashukian, parents of Edward Kalunian were born in Armenia and moved to Boston, Massachusetts with their families. They met in Boston and married in 1919. They had 2 sons and a daughter, Edward born on November 29, 1921, Alfred born in 1923 and Marian, born in 1926.

Born in Boston, Edward spent his youth in Summerville, Massachusetts and after graduating from Rosendale High School in Boston, he moved to Los Angeles with his family. Edward joined his father in the family owned grocery market where he continued working until he entered the United States Army in 1942.

During WWII as a soldier in the 104th Infantry Division, the legendary "Timberwolf Division," Edward courageously fought for 200 days through northwestern Europe. His infantry



Edward enters the army in 1942

service started in France, moved on to Belgium and then finally in western Germany where they achieved the final drive to victory. In the final critical battle, "The Battle of the Bulge," they fought back fierce German counterattacks and suffered large-scale casualties. Edward Kalunian heroically fought and survived the largest and bloodiest battle of WWII.

In 1945, Edward returned home and was awarded the Silver Star medal for his actions in the The Battle of the Bulge for "bravery and gallantry in combat which averted serious threat to the safety of the entire Company." In 1988, the United States Army's Center of Military History and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum recognized the 104th Infantry Division as a "Liberating Unit."

After the war, Edward went into sales and worked for the HJ Heinz Co., and then in 1952 for Johnson Cavelle Murphy Brokerage. In 1958, he opened his own food brokerage company, Falcon Brokerage Co., with his friend and former Ararat resident Sam Kerkorian. They eventually merged with the larger company of Dentin and Associates, where Edward served as Senior Vice-President.

On April 27, 1947 Edward married

Virginia D. Kazanjian of Fresno, daughter of Hamparsum and Sarah Kazanjian. They were blessed with two wonderful sons, Robert Edward Kalunian and Jeffrey Allen Kalunian. Robert married Denice and Jeffrey married Shannon of Los Angeles. He is the proud grandfather of Cameron, Collyn and Casey.

Robert Kalunian says his father's hobbies included "golf, card games and napping while watching TV. He was a devoted member of the Triple X Orange County Chapter for over 30 years."

In a note sent to Rita Noravian, Administrator of Ararat Assisted Living Facility, Kalunian's son Robert writes, "We appreciate the great care Dad has been receiving at Ararat. The entire staff has been amazing from the day he moved in. Everyone is kind, conscientious and truly concerned about his well-being. He is completely at home at the Home. He now seems to actively participate in most of the daily activities, which he enjoys very much. When I ask him how he likes it at the Ararat his response is always the same, 'What's not to like, everyone here treats me so well, and I have everything I need'. Thank you and all the staff for providing such wonderful environment and quality of life for Dad."

It is always a pleasure to get to know the residents at the Home and discover the remarkable contributions they have made to our country and our community. America is a better place because of the heroic acts made by individuals like Edward Kalunian.

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Edward with grandchildren, Casey, Collyn, and Cameron



Edward and Virginia Kalunian Wed in 1947

IN THIS ISSUE

Meet Corporal Edward Simon Kalunian
WWII War Hero and Silver Star Recipient 1

"All Good Things Come in Pairs" 2

Start the Fresh New Year with a Win! 2

Great Picnic! Kudos to All 3

A Letter from Hasmik Pilibosyan 3

Residents Celebrate Blessing Of Grapes
With Archbishops And Clergy 4

Upcoming Events 4

"ALL GOOD THINGS COME IN PAIRS"

By Debbie Avedian

This quote is so true for Ararat Home's exceptional volunteers, Aggie Boghosian and Lucy Hovsepian. They have unselfishly committed themselves to community service and have touched many lives in the process.

In 1910, Ohanes Kematjian moved from Dikranagerd (Diyarbakir), Turkey to the United States and settled in New Jersey where he started his dry cleaning business. Astghig Boyajian, his future wife, originally from Dikranagerd moved to New Jersey with her family in 1917, and in 1918, married Ohanes and settled in Union City, New Jersey. They were blessed with three wonderful and benevolent children: Krikor "Gregory" born on June 26, 1919, Aghavnie "Agnes" also known as "Aggie" born on March 29, 1924, and Lucia "Lucy" born on December 29, 1926.

Aggie and Lucy spent their childhood years in New Jersey with their loving family. During these years the traditions and culture of Dikranagerd were ingrained in them. As young adults, Aggie worked from 1942 to 1945 for Whelan Drug Store and United Cigar Company as secretary of the art department, and Lucy worked for Dura-Test Corporation as a clerk from 1944 to 1945. The family moved to California in 1945, and for the next seven years Aggie worked as a secretary at the Howard Automobile Company, while the Bohman and Schwartz, custom automobile builders, employed Lucy from 1946 to 1952 as their office manager.

On July 17, 1948 Aggie married Krikor "Greg" Boghosian who worked in the Public Relations Department for the Buick Automobile Dealership in Pasadena. Aggie

gave birth to her precious son Jack on December 4, 1952 and stayed home to care for him until he was old enough to attend elementary school. She continued to develop her career, and in 1957, she entered the banking industry working in the accounting and internal auditing department for the following 30 years, until her retirement in 1987. Tragically, her husband, Greg passed away in 1972.

On December 10, 1950, Lucy married Heratch "Hal" Hovsepian who worked for the Edison Company as a draftsman. Hal worked there for 37 years and became a senior artist and was head of his division for the last ten years of his employment. Her treasured sons Stephen was born on Feb 13, 1952 and Jeffrey on February 7, 1956. She stayed home and raised her children during their early years, and in 1965, she went to work part time for the Pasadena Board of Education as an assistant accountant. From 1971 to 1986 she worked at Polytechnic School in Pasadena in the accounting department.

Both Aggie and Lucy light up as they discuss their grandchildren. Aggie has two grandsons Ryan and Adam. Lucy has four grandchildren, Nathan, David, Natalie, and Jared. Lucy enthusiastically expressed, "I am very proud of my grandson Nathan. He bravely served his country for four years as a marine and was deployed in Iraq for seven months."

Aggie and Lucy and community service go hand in hand. Aggie has volunteered for the Historical Society of Pasadena, the Cancer Society for more than six years, and for the past 16 years she has been volunteering as a tutor helping first graders with reading at Field Elementary School in Pasadena. During WWII, Lucy wore a service uniform that included a blue skirt, jacket and cap and sold war bonds.

We know the sisters best for the immeasurable contributions made to the

Home. In 1989, Aggie, Lucy, and Hal began doing volunteer work at Ararat Home on 27th Street where they served at the monthly luncheons, helped Bob Shamlian address envelopes for mailing, and were always eager to help in any capacity needed. In 1992, when the Mission Hills Campus was completed, on Tuesdays, Aggie answered the phones at the front desk, while Lucy helped the activity director in the mornings, when needed and ran the Bingo games in the afternoon at the Assisted Living Facility.

In 1992, Hal, Lucy, and Aggie helped move the residents to the Mission Hills campus and helped them get acquainted with the facility. At the opening, they proudly gave tours of the new campus. Hal served on the Board of Trustees, worked in the Reservation Department at the Home, and designed the "Giving Tree" in the lobby. He was chairman of the time-line committee and drafted all the artwork for the etchings in the time-line walkway. Hal also served as chairman of the booklet committee for the annual dinner dance until his passing in 1999. Lucy continued her

husband's legacy with her sister's help until 2006. Aggie and Lucy are such close sisters that they often danced together the traditional American dance, the jitterbug during the Ararat Home's annual dinner dances.

On occasional Sundays, Aggie and Lucy would visit the Home bringing snacks and American Musicals for the residents' enjoyment. With their infectious and joyful personalities they encouraged the residents to participate in sing-along. For the past 20 years Lucy and Aggie have presented Christmas gifts to the office, kitchen, and maintenance staff and often baked cookies

for the staff lounge. This was their way of expressing their appreciation for all that the staff does to help the elderly.

Aggie and Lucy have been members of the San Gabriel Valley Guild for the past 25 years and have served as chairladies and co-chairladies. For the past five years they have been in the Ararat Ladies Auxiliary where Lucy held the office of Second Vice-President for hospitality. They still continue to help with the Auxiliary monthly luncheons.

Ararat Home appreciates all the contributions these dedicated ladies have made for the betterment of the Home. They communicate with all the residents and staff with kindness, respect, and of course, with their wonderful sense of humor. They have succeeded in teaching some of the adorable "Dikranagerds" dialect and colloquial sayings to the staff. Aggie states, "I attempt to bring joy and laughter not only to the residents but also the employees. After all laughter is the best medicine."



Aggie Boghosian and Lucy Hovsepian



Aggie and Lucy in 1984

START THE FRESH NEW YEAR WITH A WIN!

By Cindy Kaloostian

Ready for some fun? Let's get together for a great meal, exciting games and the chance to win valuable prizes, all at the beautiful George Deukmejian Grand Ballroom on the Mission Hills Campus of Ararat Home. The fresh new date for a fresh new year is Saturday, January 19, 2013 with a start time of 5:30pm. Reserve your \$50 tickets and bring your friends and family. We guarantee a great time!



GREAT PICNIC! KUDOS TO ALL

By Cindy Kaloostian

Chairman Mike Surmeian complimented all those who worked so hard to make the Ararat Home Annual Picnic on Sunday, September 23, 2012 such a great success. Mike said, "As usual, it was a total team effort." Mike and committee members, William Kevorkian, Galen Petoyan, Shant Dergazarian, Richard Jebejian, Maggie Goshen and Luke Surmeian all did their part as well as an additional 150 volunteers who filled positions on the day of



Ladies Auxiliary volunteers serve homemade desserts

the picnic. While the Los Angeles Chapter of the Triple X Fraternity and the Los Angeles Jr. Triple X do the lion's share of the food ordering, preparing and serving, don't forget the ladies of the Ararat Home Auxiliary and Guilds who prepare and sell the much sought after baked goods and desserts... always with a smile. Members of Knights of Vartan Sevan Lodge manned the shuttle vans all day so no one had a long walk to and from the additional

parking lots down the hill.

The day was warm, but that didn't keep the Najarian Ensemble accompanied by Tom Bozigian from playing wonderful music in the courtyard to the delight of those who couldn't bear to sit still and took the opportunity

to get up and dance. The Ara Dance Group, in full costume, was thrilling to see; such attractive young people putting their all into their art. Wonderful!

I don't think it was my imagination... there were more children, tweens and teens present and serving in important capacities this year. Might that have something to do with teenager Luke Surmeian being on the committee?



Dancers from Ara's Dance Studio entertain the crowd

From the parking lots to the carnival booths to the serving lines, fresh young faces were taking on responsibility. Happy to see it, and hopefully, it's a trend for future years.

Certainly many thanks go to the individuals and organizations that underwrite and sponsor the picnic each year with their monetary and with product donations. It would be much less profitable to hold the picnic without them.



Mark Boranian with picnic chairman, Mike Surmeian

And, while the picnic is a great opportunity to eat delicious shish kebab, to win fabulous raffle prizes and to get together and enjoy seeing dear old friends and making new ones, the Home benefits greatly from its monetary success.

Chairman Mike wanted to be sure to mention several key employees of the Home who help in most valuable ways: all the wonderful kitchen staff, Suren from Maintenance, Derik Ghookasian, Controller and especially Beatrice Malkhasian, Secretary to the Board who works diligently for the picnic "before, during and after."



Kids enjoying games

ARARAT HOME OF LOS ANGELES CASINO X NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2013 - 5:30 P.M.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 818 838 4860

Hasmik Piliposyan, an intern at the Assisted Living Facility of Ararat Home in the summer of 2012 expresses her thoughts and feelings about the Home.

Ararat the majestic mountain on which Noah's ark landed upon, the pride and representation of a great nation who has fought long and hard to continually obtain unity and recognition, and the witness to thousands of years of economic and cultural success as well as brutality and bloodshed.

Although I've been to Armenia twice, I haven't had the opportunity to see the snowy peaks of Masis and Sis. Until I visit and finally see the throne of the Armenian people, I was fortunately introduced to a completely different kind of Ararat this summer, a home where Armenians, no matter what dialect spoken or traditions followed, can unite and care for our older generations. The care, patience, and love provided by the staff measured much higher than the old mountain itself!

My experience, working as a front desk receptionist and doing activities, was definitely one of difficulty and one that required great amount of patience. However, with the help of all the loving staff, I learned to be patient with the senior residents by placing myself in their shoes for a change. I realized that it is so hard being away from your family and your own home and that's what most of our residents yearned for. I can relate, as I am about to embark on an incredible journey, away from home,

to establish my future and become a wiser, well-rounded individual.

The residents of Ararat Home instilled so much of their inner wisdom in me and showed me that life is all about following your dreams. I am so lucky to have been able to see these bright, shiny faces each morning smile at me and always give me their blessings. I am going to miss saying "bari luy" each morning to everyone, playing bingo, singing during keff time, and just being part of such a happy, healthy, and positive atmosphere. This heavenly facility has helped me develop into a more mature individual with great communications skills I can use in the future. And I am much more aware of my cultural and traditional values of being an Armenian; I feel more Armenian than ever!!

I would like to thank all of the Ararat Home staff, especially my boss Rita Noravian, for allowing me to work here during the summer with open arms. Words cannot describe any appreciation and love I have for all of you. I am also very grateful for my family, particularly my mother, who never stops believing in me and provides me with the love, strength and courage I need to pursue my dreams. Thank you all!

Love,
Hasmik Piliposyan

RESIDENTS CELEBRATE BLESSING of GRAPES with ARCHBISHOPS and CLERGY

By Debbie Avedian



Western Prelacy Clergy visit Mission Hills Campus for Grape Blessing Ceremony and Divine Liturgy. Center Nazar Ashjian, Chairman and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian with residents, administrator staff and board members.

On Wednesday, August 8, 2012, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, with the participation of Diocesan clergy of the Greater Los Angeles area, presided over the Blessing of the Grapes ceremony on the occasion of the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary at the Ararat Home Skilled Nursing Facility in Mission Hills. Grapes, bread and salt were blessed and an explanation was given to the residents for the significance of the ceremony that celebrates the death of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her bodily assumption into heaven. Archbishop Derderian stated, "Grapes are good, and they symbolize the goodness of Mary, mother of Jesus." He thanked Executive Director Margo Babikian for her devotion to the residents and distributed holy books to all the residents and staff.

The clergy then moved to the Assisted Living resident's dining room where they repeated the ceremony. His Eminence praised the residents and told them to "Be strong, brave and happy." Following the services, the administration hosted the Primate and Clergy members to a luncheon with Chairman of the Board, Nazar H. Ashjian, Jr., Rita Noravian, Ararat Assisted Living Administrator, Derik Ghookasian, Controller, and several board members. Later that afternoon, the clergy visited the Eagle Rock campus to celebrate the Grape Blessing ceremony with its residents and staff.

The following day, His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian Prelate of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America with Prelacy Clergy also visited the Home



Grape Blessing Ceremony at the Ararat Skilled Nursing Facility with Western Diocese clergy - from left to right. Fr. Zareh Mansuryan, Fr. Haroutoun Tachejian, Fr. Khajak Shahbazyan, Archpriest Fr. Manoug Markarian, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Fr. Nareg Matarian, and Archpriest Fr. Arshag Katchadourian

for Blessing of Grapes with Divine Liturgy. His Eminence presided over the Blessing of the Grapes ceremony in the skilled nursing facility. Residents were enthralled by the ceremony and the songs sung by the clergy. This was followed with Divine Liturgy with Archpriest Fr. Hrant Yeretizian delivering the sermon and Grape Blessing at Sheen Memorial Chapel. The Prelate conveyed his blessings and well wishes to the Board of Trustees, administration, staff, and residents. He stressed, "Heaven is for the living not the dead. It's not a world for the dead." He conveyed his feelings of the importance of



Western Diocese clergy visit Eagle Rock Campus from left to right. Fr. Nerses Hayrapetyan, Archpriest Fr. Hovsep Hagopian, Very Rev. Fr. Baret Dz. V. Yeretizian, Fr. Tavit Zelveyan, Fr. Vazken Movsesian

motherhood. He said, "Be good mothers so our nation will have children that will continue to serve the church and community." The Prelate and Clergy concluded their visit by joining the residents, administrators, and staff for lunch in the Ararat Assisted Living dining room.



Margo Y. Babikian, RN, MS, Executive Director with His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012
WESTSIDE GUILD OF ARARAT HOME

Annual Christmas Luncheon
at Beverly Hills Hotel

Bake Sale, Silent Auction - 11 a.m.
Luncheon & Entertainment - 12 p.m.

Contact Louise Arklin (818) 368-3463

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ARARAT GUILD

Celebrating its
25th Anniversary
& Christmas Gala

at Santa Anita Golf Club
"Sunset Room" in Arcadia

Contact Cindy Kaloostian at (626) 792-4479

ARARAT HIGHLIGHTS

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